NOSTALGIA

New life for heart patient and end of an era for a streamlined beauty

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

King Street, 1980s

'Too many post offices in Cambridge' - 1983

Dozens of Cambridge residents gathered outside King Street Post Office to protest against its closure.

It was the last day of business for the owners, Tom and Ivy Mansfield, who are retiring after 30 happy years.

The decision to close was taken despite vigorous opposition from the city council.

"They haven't given a thought to the inconvenience it will cause people", say protestors, but the head postmaster says there are too many post offices in Cambridge.

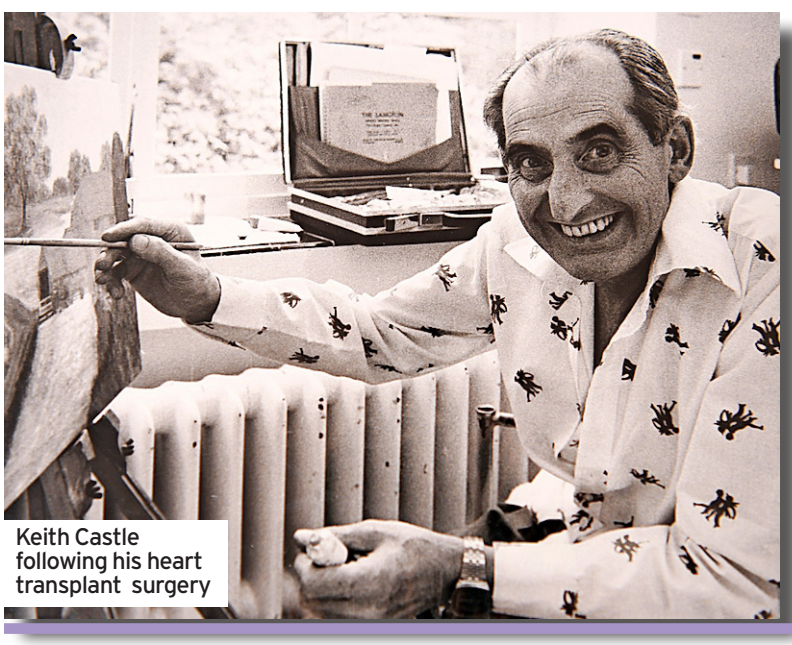
First successful UK heart transplant - 1979

Britain's first heart transplant patient, London builder Keith Castle, was sitting up in a chair at Papworth Hospital less than 48 hours after his major operation.

Mr Terence English, the consultant surgeon who led the 12-strong heart transplant team, said the 5½-hour operation went very smoothly and the new heart was functioning perfectly normally without assistance.

Mr Castle received the heart of 21-year-old golf professional, Duncan Prestt, who died after a car crash in Ely. His wife said the first words her husband spoke after the operation were: "Have you remembered my Guinness?"

Punts at Clare Bridge, 1950s



Keith Castle following his heart transplant surgery

Punt prices - 1947

Sir, May I join the protest against the excessive charges now being asked for the hire of a punt on the river?

It is within easy memory that it was possible to hire a punt out for an afternoon and evening for five or six persons and still have 10s change from a pound note. I can see nothing which warrants the present-day prices.

Is it that the ordinary townsfolk are being slowly squeezed from the river in order to allow the varsity men and the more wealthy visitors to the town to enjoy "our" river?

The borough council should either consider setting up a municipal boatyard for the hire of punts or investigate the charges with a view to softening the blow to the everyday working-class family of Cambridge.

Clothes banned at Ely market - 1943

Unless second-hand clothes vendors can produce a satisfactory certificate to the effect that all such clothes being offered have been properly sterilised, their sale will be prohibited at Ely Market Place.

This was the recommendation of the markets committee, which was

Concorde makes its final landing - 1977

Concorde, proud emblem of British civil aviation, swooped low over Cambridge and its necklace villages to her new museum home at Duxford airfield, ending months of speculation and delay.

Pilot Brian Trubshaw circled before putting the sleek, streamlined beauty onto the runway.

As the wheels touched down, a parachute flew out from the back of the aircraft to slow her down on the comparatively short 6,000-ft runway. In the background was equipment belonging to the construction firm, Bovis, waiting to lop 1,000 feet from the runway to make way for the Cambridge western by-pass.

Now, Concorde is here to stay – the runway is too short for her to take off again.

Concorde 101 touches down at her final home at Duxford